

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

TRSE-00 IO-14 HA-05 AID-05 /103 W

-----027135 160315Z /73

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2786

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

UNCLAS ASUNCION 1500

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJ: PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE AT
BI-NATIONAL CENTER

REF: ASUNCION 1499

1. EDITORIALS IN OFFICIAL "PATRIA" AND PRO-GOVERNMENT "HOY" ON APRIL 9

REFERRED IN HIGHLY CRITICAL TERMS TO DEBATE WHICH DEVELOPED FOLLOWING
VISITING PROFESSOR SCOTT PALMER'S APRIL 5 HUMAN RIGHTS SPEECH AT BNC
(REFTEL). "PATRIA" EXCORIATED SEVERAL OPPOSITION LEADERS BY NAME,
AMONG THEM MRS. LARA DE CASTRO -- AN EX-DEPUTY (LIBERAL RADICAL) AND
CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE PARAGUAYAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE
EDITORIAL INDIRECTLY QUESTIONED THE USE OF THE BNC FOR SUCH AN EVENT
AND WENT ON TO DWELL AT LENGTH ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE U.S.N
E.G., PUERTO RICAN "POLITICAL PRISONERS", RADICAL DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST HISPANO AMERICANS, EXPLOITATION OF MEXICAN "BRACEROS",
ETC.

2. "HOY" IN A MANNER BOTH DEFENSIVE AND SARCASTIC SOUGHT
TO EXPLAIN ITS EARLIER SERIES OF EDITORIALS ATTACKING THE U.S.
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AND PRESIDENT CARTER (WHOM IT HAD CALLED A "MANISERO", OR
PEANUT VENDOR), AND THEN ATTACKED EX-DEPUTY DOMINGO LAINO
(ALSO PLR) FOR HIS ANTI-GOP REMARKS AT THE BNC PRESENTATION.
BOTH "PATRIA" AND "HOY" CHARACTERIZED LAINO AND COMPANY AS DIS-
CREDITED OPPORTUNISTS SEEKING TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE
USG AND GAIN PERSONAL PUBLICITY BY WAVING THE BANNER OF HUMAN
RIGHTS.

3. ANOTHER "PATRIA" EDITORIAL ON APRIL 11, IN AN EVEN MORE
POINTED ATTACK ON LAINO (ALTHOUGH NOT BY NAME), STRUCK TWO THREATENING

NOTES: (A) "PATRIA" ACCUSED LAINO OF BEING RESPONSIBLE
FOR "SOWING RESENTMENT AND HATRED," THE WORDING OF THE FORMULA
USED IN APPLYING LAW 209 BY WHICH MOST POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE
DETAINED; AND (B) "PATRIA" CALLED ON THE COUNTRY'S YOUTH TO
TAKE "MILITANT" ACTION AGAINST SUCH "DESPERADOS."

4. COMMENT. AS IN THE CASE OF THE "HOY" SERIES ATTACKING THE
U.S., THIS PRESS REACTION TO THE PALMER PRESENTATION AND AFTERMATH
CLEARLY SERVES OUR PURPOSES BY PUBLICIZING WHAT WENT ON AT THE
BNC LAST WEEK. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, OUR MESSAGE IS GETTING ACROSS,
AND THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS BEING DISCUSSED/DEBATED ON
OUR TERMS.
WHITE

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

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